

REMARKS

The Office Action in the above-identified application has been carefully considered and this amendment has been presented to place this application in condition for allowance.

Accordingly, reexamination and reconsideration of this application are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3, 5-8, and 10-11 are in the present application. It is submitted that these claims were patentably distinct over the prior art cited by the Examiner, and that these claims were in full compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112. The changes to the claims, as presented herein, are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. sections 101, 102, 103 or 112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicant is entitled. Claim 4 is canceled.

Claims 1, 10 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The offending limitation “said growth state being determined at least in part on the basis of a camera input.” has been deleted from the claims. Accordingly, this rejection is moot.

Claims 1, 3-8, and 10-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Edatsune (U.S. Patent 5,802,488) in view of Imagawa et al. (U.S. Patent 6,353,764). Note the limitations of canceled dependent claim 4 have now been amended into each of the independent claims. In the present invention: 1) “the words described in said dictionary are weighted in accordance with the growth state of said robot” and 2) “speech recognition is performed using the weighted words.” (Claims 1, 10, and 11)

The Examiner contends Edatsune's weighting coefficients, as disclosed at column 9, lines 16-38, meets the present limitation of words in the dictionary being weighted in accordance with the robot's growth state. (Office Action page 6) However, at the cited location, Edatsune discloses that the coefficients assigned to a recognition target speech are weighted according to the time of day. For example, in the morning it is more likely to hear the words "good morning" than it is to hear "good evening" and so these words are weighted accordingly. Edatsune does not disclose weighting words in accordance with the growth state of the robot.

The Examiner further contends Edatsune discloses, at column 12, lines 23-56, that the level of words changes as the toy grows and that this meets the present limitation that "speech recognition is performed using the weighted words." (Office Action page 6) However, at the cited location, Edatsune discloses that the response content changes with the clock time; not the speech recognition. For example, the toy may respond with "bow-wow" on the first day after purchase, and with "good morning" on the second day of purchase. Hence, Edatsune does not disclose using weighted words for speech recognition at the cited location.

Accordingly, for at least these reasons, Edatsune and Imagawa fail to obviate the present invention and the rejected claims should now be allowed.

Claims 1, 10, and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Edatsune (U.S. Patent 5,802,488) in view of Pryor (U.S. Patent 6,766,036). As discussed above, Edatsune fails to meet "the words described in said dictionary are weighted in accordance with the growth state of said robot and speech recognition is performed using the weighted words" limitations recited in the present claims. The Examiner relies on Pryor solely to meet limitations which have been canceled from the claims. Accordingly, for the same reasons discussed above,

Edatsune and Pryor fail to obviate the present invention and the rejected claims should now be allowed.

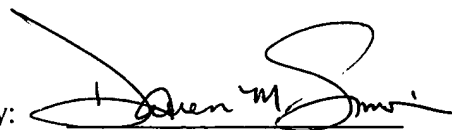
In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application as now presented is in condition for allowance. Early and favorable reconsideration of the application are respectfully requested.

No additional fees are anticipated for the filing of this amendment, but if such are required, the Examiner is hereby authorized to charge any insufficient fees or credit any overpayment associated with the above-identified application to Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

If any issues remain, or if the Examiner has any further suggestions, he/she is invited to call the undersigned at the telephone number provided below. The Examiner's consideration of this matter is gratefully acknowledged.

Respectfully submitted,
FROMMER LAWRENCE & HAUG LLP

By:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Darren M. Simon", is written over a horizontal line.

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